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LETTER DATED 15 JULY 1997 FROM THE CHARGE D'AFFAIRES OF THE LIBYAN ARAB JAMAHIRIYA TO THE UNITED NATIONS ADDRESSED TO THE PRESIDENT OF THE SECURITY COUNCIL

I have the honour to transmit to you herewith a letter to you from Mr. Abuzid Omar Dordah, Permanent Representative of the Libyan Arab Jamahiriya to the United Nations, concerning the position stated by the Security Council at its sixteenth meeting devoted to the review of the sanctions imposed on the Libyan Arab Jamahiriya.

I should be grateful if you would have this letter and the annex thereto circulated as a document of the Security Council.

(Signed) Ali S. MUNTASSER
Deputy Permanent Representative
Chargé d'affaires a.i.

Annex

Letter dated 15 July 1997 from the Permanent Representative of the Libyan Arab Jamahiriya to the United Nations addressed to the President of the Security Council

With reference to the negotiations that took place at the sixteenth meeting devoted to consideration of the unjust embargo imposed on the Libyan Arab Jamahiriya, which took place on 10 July 1997, I wish to make the following points:

- My country expresses its profound gratitude to the members of the Security Council who ensured that the review conducted at the above-mentioned meeting was meaningful and enabled the Council to fulfil its role, at least in terms of debate and the expression of views;

- I note with great regret the manner in which the United States of America and the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland exploited the Council's method of work, namely, seeking to achieve a convergence of views, in order to prevent the Council from taking any concrete action and to ensure that the positive initiatives taken and the convictions reached by other members met with failure. This exploitation of the Council's method of work is an approach that has become habitual on the part of the two States in question, which seek thus to impair the Council's effectiveness and to prevent it from assuming its responsibilities;

- My country notes with satisfaction the content of the letter from the Secretaries-General of the League of Arab States and the Organization of African Unity, expressing the profound conviction of the leaders of the Arab and African States, who have been seeking since the outset to find a peaceful, equitable and impartial solution to the case against the Libyan Arab Jamahiriya completely fabricated by the two above-mentioned States;

- It was reaffirmed in the course of the recent negotiations in connection with the review of the sanctions that there is no dispute between my country and the Security Council, and that the dispute is between my country and the United States and the United Kingdom, as we have already repeatedly stated. These two States' claim that the dispute is between the Libyan Arab Jamahiriya and the Council is merely an obvious attempt on the part of those States to hide behind the Council;

- It has been established that it is the United States and the United Kingdom that are obstructing implementation of the Security Council's resolutions on the Lockerbie case, and that the persistence of the United States, in particular, in deferring the trial amounts to a demonstration of the innocence of the two Libyan suspects. A just and impartial court will establish the truth, of which the United States

is well aware, namely that these two Libyans are not the guilty ones, a fact that the United States wishes to conceal;

- Preventing the Security Council from sending a commission or an envoy to the Libyan Arab Jamahiriya to investigate and verify implementation of Security Council resolution 748 (1992), paragraph 2, unquestionably confirms what we have already said, namely, that the true intention of the United States - which is not to establish who was really responsible for the Pan Am flight 103 disaster - is of a strategic nature and directed against the current Government of the Libyan Arab Jamahiriya, with a view to taking possession of the Libyan Arab people's wealth, particularly petroleum and gas - the Lockerbie case being no more than a pretext for the purpose of achieving that imperialist goal.

The Libyan Arab Jamahiriya therefore wishes to state the following:

1. The Libyan Arab Jamahiriya has, for its part, responded fully to the demands made in the relevant Security Council resolution, particularly in accepting that the two Libyan suspects should appear before a fair and impartial court, outside the climate prevailing in the United States and the United Kingdom, where they are presumed guilty.

2. It is the United States and the United Kingdom that are preventing a court from swiftly trying this case, they alone bear this responsibility and sanctions should be imposed on those two States, since they are obstructing a process implementing the relevant Security Council resolutions.

The Libyan Arab Jamahiriya therefore, while expressing once again its profound respect for the Security Council, draws the Council's attention to the following:

1. The Libyan Arab Jamahiriya reserves the right to take the necessary steps to safeguard its legal and political rights;

2. The Libyan Arab Jamahiriya reaffirms its right to claim compensation for the damage and injury suffered as a result of the false accusation in question and the unjust resolutions applied against it.

(Signed) Abuzid Omar DORDAH
Permanent Representative of the
Libyan Arab Jamahiriya to the
United Nations